THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDAS): (a) and (b) In first week of May, 2003 Honorable Prime Minister had witnessed both the technology demonstrators (TD1 and TD2) of LCA, flying together. After which he has christened LCA as "Tejas".

(c) Tejas (TD-1 and TD-2) have completed 93 flights for a duration of 47 hours, including a supersonic flight on 1.8.2003.

(d) Infrastructural facilities have been set up at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for producing limited number of aircraft. However, the number will be increased in due course of time to meet requirements of Indian Air Force (IAF). Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) of Tejas is planned by year 2006-2007 and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) by 2008-2009.

(e) and (f) LCA has high export potential, and the Government will take decision on export of Tejas at the appropriate time.

One-Rank One-Pension Scheme

†1814. SHRI D.P YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the 'one-rank one-pension' scheme for the retired jawans/officers to the army;

(b) if so, since when; and;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The demand for 'one-rank one-pension' was considered by the 4th & 5th Pay Commissions but did not favour it. Keeping in view the demand being raised persistently by the Armed Forces pensioners at different fora, the issue was considered on several occasions in consultation with the agencies concerned but it has not been found feasible to accept the same because of serious financial implications and administrative reasons.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.